

Xia Xiong is no stranger to UB as she has worked two summers for the UB summer program. We are excited to welcome her back as a new mentor!

Xia was born in Thailand and emigrated to the US when she was four. She and her family settled in California first, then moved to Minnesota when she was ten. Xia lived in St. Paul and graduated from Central High School, where she participated in Youth in Government, band, and badminton.

After graduating from Central, Xia continued her education at St. Olaf College. She chose St. Olaf because of its small class size, which allowed her to have a close relationship with her professors. Besides the small classes, she received the best financial aid package from them. Xia majored in sociology/anthropology with concentrations in education and Asian studies. She participated in many student organizations, including Hmong Dialogue and Leadership, Hmong Cultural Outreach, TRIO Student Support Service's Board of Leaders, and the TRIO Educational Talent Search mentor program. Xia graduated from St. Olaf in the spring of 2022.



Currently, Xia is a TRIO Student Support Services success coach at St. Kate's, where she helps students navigate their college careers. She meets with students about classes they want to take and suggests resources they need. Additionally, she plans workshops and activities for students in the program.

When asked why Xia decided to mentor for UB, she shared, "I enjoyed my time with UB students over the summer and wanted to continue supporting them. I've always enjoyed mentoring because I can share what I've learned and ask questions. It's a small way to give back to those who came before and those who will come after."

One of Xia's future goals is to continue trying new hobbies and revisiting the ones she loves. It's hard to have motivation after a long work day, but she hopes to set aside time to pursue them. Another goal is to seek education or projects that center on the Hmong community and higher education. These are two passions she finds herself returning to, and she hopes to find ways to support students holistically.

Lastly, Xia would like to offer the following advice to UB students, "learn about who you are and the different factors that have and continue to influence your lives. When you can understand where you stand and where others stand, the world becomes a much more meaningful place. Last but not least, it's okay to question but not agree, and trying to understand someone you don't agree with is important in making lasting connections."

UB would like to thank Xia for sharing more about herself. We are excited to welcome her back as a UB mentor!